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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# **Selected Speeches and News Releases**

**February 14 - February 20, 1991**

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# News Releases

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## USDA ISSUES REVISED STANDARDS FOR HUMANE CARE AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its regulations under the Animal Welfare Act concerning the humane handling, care, treatment and transportation of dogs, cats and nonhuman primates.

“We worked hard to make animal care standards easy to understand, hoping to increase compliance and make the standards more effective,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

“We put special effort into drafting two entirely new standards required by Congress—providing dogs an opportunity for exercise and furnishing nonhuman primates an environment that promotes their psychological well-being,” Glosser said.

The standards were previously published as proposals in March 1989 and August 1990, and they generated a high level of public interest. The first proposal drew nearly 11,000 comments; the second, nearly 12,000. “In wording the final regulations now being published, we carefully evaluated these comments plus input from other government agencies,” Glosser said.

Standards for the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates require people who are under the regulations to prepare and follow a plan which accounts for the social grouping of the animals involved and gives them a chance to express activities appropriate for their species.

The plan also must provide for the special needs of young animals, animals that show distress and those housed in solitary cages. The regulations specifically forbid keeping a nonhuman primate in a restraint device unless required for the animal’s health or a specific research project.

“In writing the standards, we looked for wording that would promote the well-being of animals and would be enforceable,” Glosser said. “We pursued some objectives with ‘performance standards,’ others with ‘engineering standards’ and still others, with both.”



Engineering standards set design requirements. For example, to set the space requirement for a dog kept in a pen, the engineering standard provides a formula that accounts for the size of the dog and yields a specific number of square feet of floor space that must be provided.

Performance standards set objectives. The performance standard for the space requirement says that each dog must be able to turn about freely, to stand, sit and lie in a comfortable, normal position and to walk in a normal manner. Both requirements must be met, and the two approaches help APHIS evaluate unusually shaped or designed spaces.

“Overall, we believe we produced a practical and enforceable blend of performance and engineering standards,” Glosser said. “We have made room for variations in the way individual animals behave and for differences in the way they are used or housed. We also have provided flexibility in complying with the regulations by offering more than one option for achieving certain standards.”

This flexibility can help reduce the cost of making required changes, Glosser said. The overall cost for compliance, estimated at \$537 million, is less than one-third of the estimated \$1.75 billion price tag for implementing the rules proposed in March 1989.

The Animal Welfare Act was passed by Congress in 1966. It was amended in 1970, 1976 and 1985 to include additional animals and activities in which animals are used. Now, it generally includes animals used in research, sold into the pet trade, transported commercially or exhibited to the public.

“We decided to revise all animal welfare regulations while we added points required by the 1985 amendments,” Glosser said. “We updated and clarified the regulations, made them more consistent with other federal regulations and arranged them in an order that’s easier to follow.”

The resulting final rule was prepared in three installments, of which today’s action is the third. Earlier installments were published Aug. 31, 1989, and July 16, 1990.

The new standards take effect March 18. Regulated parties are given deadlines for making specific adjustments in animal facilities and operations. Certain provisions that would require regulated parties to make extensive structural changes must be complied with by Feb. 15, 1994. These provisions involve perimeter fences for animal facilities and cage sizes for dogs, cats and nonhuman primates.

A deadline of Aug. 14 was set to implement plans for exercising dogs and for promoting the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates.

Glosser said existing standards must be followed until the deadlines take effect. He encouraged regulated parties to make needed changes as soon as possible ahead of the deadline.

Details of today's action are being published as docket 90-218 in the Feb. 15 Federal Register. They also will appear in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3, Subparts A and D.

Sibyl Bowie (301) 436-7255

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## **BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET FEB. 20-21**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee (ABRAC) will meet here Feb. 20-21 to discuss on-going biotechnology issues and to plan for future initiatives.

Items for discussion include cooperative activities between ABRAC and the Environmental Protection Agency's Biotechnology Science Advisory Committee; an update on the recently published proposed research guidelines; and a field trial conducted last year by Wistar Institute on a remote island off the coast of Virginia.

In addition, the chairmen of eight pre-working groups will give their recommendations as to whether full working groups should be formed and, if so, how to approach the assignments. According to Dr. Alvin L. Young, director of USDA's Office of Agricultural Biotechnology and ABRAC's executive secretary, "The concept of using pre-working groups to determine the need for a full working group is one that has proven very effective with federal advisory committees. The process not only saves both time and expense, but it also helps to prioritize the many issues that have an impact on biotechnology."

The meeting will be held at the Aerospace Building, Conference Room A, 10th Floor, 901 D Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. It is open to the public and begins at 9 a.m. both days. The meeting will adjourn at 5 p.m. on Feb. 20 and at 3 p.m. on Feb. 21.



For more information, or to file written comments before or after the meeting, contact Dr. Alvin L. Young, Executive Secretary, ABRAC, USDA, Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, Suite 328, Washington, D.C. 20250-2200; telephone 202-401-4587.

Marti Asner (703) 235-4413

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## **FGIS SELECTS OFFICIAL QUANTITATIVE AFLATOXIN TEST KIT**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service tomorrow will begin using Vicam's Aflatest for testing grain for aflatoxin. FGIS selected Aflatest for official use after evaluating a number of commercially available quantitative aflatoxin test kits.

FGIS will use Aflatest to determine quantitative aflatoxin levels (in parts per billion) in corn, sorghum, wheat, soybeans, milled rice, and processed commodities. The service will be available at all FGIS locations that currently provide aflatoxin testing services. This includes all export locations and delegated and designated states that perform aflatoxin tests on FGIS' behalf.

Prior to selection of Aflatest, thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was the only approved quantitative method for determining aflatoxin in grains other than corn. Aflatest allows FGIS to provide sublot-by-sublot aflatoxin testing on sorghum, wheat, and soybeans, in addition to corn.

After an interim period, FGIS will discontinue TLC testing at its field locations, although the test will remain available at the FGIS Commodity Testing Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

"FGIS is pleased to offer this new objective, quantitative aflatoxin testing service," said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz. "Aflatest fulfills our important criteria of being safer and faster than current aflatoxin testing services."



For technical information about the FGIS aflatoxin testing program, contact Steven Tanner, FGIS Assistant to the Administrator for Technology, at (202) 382-0216; or David Orr, Deputy Director, FGIS Field Management Division, at (202) 382-0228.

Dana Stewart (202) 382-0378

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## USDA PROTECTS 36 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 36 new varieties of seedreproduced plants, including alfalfa, garden bean, celery, crimson clover, corn, cotton, soybean, barley and tomato.

Kenneth H. Evans, of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Legend variety of alfalfa, developed by Vista Research, West Salem, Wis.;

- the Bronco variety of garden bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

- the Gene's Gem 11-7 variety of celery, developed by A. Duda & Sons Inc., Oviedo, Fla.;

- the Flame variety of crimson clover, developed by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, Fla.;

- the PHN73, the PHN82, the PHP55, the PHP60, the PHR62, the PHR63, the PHT22, the PHV37, the PHW03, the PHW20, and the PHW43 varieties of corn, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa;

- the Coker 130 variety of cotton, developed by Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Co. Inc., Stoneville, Miss.;

- the Paymaster 147 and the Paymaster 892 varieties of cotton, developed by Cargill Hybrid Seeds, Aiken, Texas; and

- the Hartz 6686 variety of soybean, developed by Jacob Hartz Seed Co. Inc., Stuttgart, Ark.

- the B1201, B1202, and B1601 varieties of barley, developed by Busch Agricultural Resources Inc., Berthoud, Colo.;
- the Fiesta variety of barley, developed by Western Plant Breeders Inc., Bozeman, Mont.;
- the Stiletto variety of garden bean, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;
- the CR14 variety of corn, developed by the J. C. Robinson Seed Co., Waterloo, Neb.;
- the L 127, L 135, and L 139 varieties of corn, developed by the Lifaco Seed Corp., Kirkland, Ill.;
- the RS710 variety of corn, developed by Dahlgren & Co. Inc., Crookston, Minn.;
- the PD-3 variety of cotton, developed by the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA-ARS, Clemson, S.C.;
- the Terra 207 variety of cotton, developed by Terra International Inc., Memphis, Tenn.;
- the Coker 320 and Acala BR-636 varieties of cotton, developed by Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Co. Inc., Stoneville, Miss. and Casa Grande, Ariz.;
- the 9302 and 9303 varieties of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Waterloo, Iowa; and
- the Ramsay variety of tomato, developed by the Campbell Institute for Research and Technology, Davis, Calif.

The certificates of protection for the B1201, B1202, B1601, and Fiesta barley varieties and the PD-3, the Paymaster 147 and the Paymaster 892 cotton varieties, and the Flame crimson clover variety are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by USDA's AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seedreproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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**USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE  
FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15, through midnight Thursday, Feb. 21.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1989 and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Feb. 14, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

**Adjusted World Price**

Northern Europe Price .....	85.20
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	13.80
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	2.15
Average U.S. location .....	0.35
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>-16.30</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	68.90 cents/lb.

**Coarse Count Adjustment**

Northern Europe Price .....	85.20
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-77.98</u>
	7.22
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....	<u>-4.10</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	3.12 cents/lb.



The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Feb. 21.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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## **FOREST SERVICE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON NEW FOREST PLANNING RULES**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is inviting the public to comment on new federal regulations being developed for implementing and changing official forest plans for individual national forests.

According to Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson, "With more than a decade of experience developing and using these highly detailed plans, we found we needed to streamline the process and make it easier to understand. This is an effort to do that."

Forest plans describe resource management direction for each of the 123 forest units in the National Forest System, and are required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. More than one million persons participated nationwide in the development of the first forest plans.

Last year the Forest Service conducted an extensive critique of the forest planning process, which included public hearings and consideration of hundreds of comments from the public. The proposed new regulations respond to recommendations developed from that critique.

Robertson also invited members of the public to attend one of four meetings sponsored by the Forest Service at which agency personnel will describe the proposed new rules, answer questions from the public and receive unofficial comments.

The meetings are scheduled for Feb. 26 at the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, 1900 North Ft. Myer Drive, Arlington, Va.; April 8 at the World Trade Center, 25 Southwest Salmon, Portland, Ore.; April 10 at the Lakewood Sheraton, 360 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colo.; and April 12 at the Lenox Inn, 3387 Lenox Road, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. All of the meetings will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local times.

An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking describing this regulatory proposal was published Feb. 15 in the Federal Register. Copies of the Federal Register notice are available from the Land Management Planning Staff, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O.



Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090; telephone (202) 447-5933. Comments should be sent by May 16 to F. Dale Robertson, Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

Jerry Mason (202) 447-5027

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING ON VETERINARY BIOLOGICS REGULATIONS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will host a public meeting Aug. 15-16 in Ames, Iowa, to discuss regulatory and policy issues concerning the manufacture and distribution of veterinary biological products.

The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 15 and from 8 a.m. to noon on Aug. 16 in the Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames. It will be the third annual meeting on veterinary biologics, said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The agenda is not yet complete and APHIS will consider suggestions for additional topics. Topics already being considered include:

- Implementation of the 1985 amendments to the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act

- Regulation of autogenous biologics

- International harmonization of regulations

- Safety issues before and after licensing of products

Veterinary biologics are animal vaccines and related products that are regulated by APHIS under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act. The act sets strict quality control standards and requires licensing of each product and its manufacturer.

Correspondence on the issue should be directed, by March 15, to Frank Y. Tang, USDA-APHIS-BBEP, Room 851 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Notice of the public meeting is being published in the Feb. 20 Federal Register; after plans for the meeting are complete, a further announcement will be published in the Federal Register.

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USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR DECEMBER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for December 1990:

Cost of food at home for a week in December 1990

	-----Food plans----- (In Dollars)			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	48.10	60.60	74.70	92.70
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	45.60	58.30	71.80	85.80
Family of 4 with preschool children	70.10	87.30	106.60	131.00
Family of 4 with elemen- tary schoolchildren	80.10	102.60	128.30	154.40
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	12.70	15.40	18.00	21.80
3-5 years	13.70	16.80	20.70	24.90
6-8 years	16.60	22.20	27.90	32.50
9-11 years	19.80	25.30	32.50	37.60
Females:				
12-19 years	20.80	24.80	30.10	36.30
20-50 years	20.80	25.80	31.30	40.00
51 and over	20.60	25.10	31.00	36.90
Males:				
12-14 years	20.60	28.60	35.70	42.00
15-19 years	21.40	29.60	36.80	42.60
20-50 years	22.90	29.30	36.60	44.30
51 and over	20.90	27.90	34.30	41.10

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Sue Ann Ritchko, HNIS administrator, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

“USDA costs are only guides to spending,” Ritchko said. “Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.”

“Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable,” she said. “The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan.”

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent for each meal eaten away from home from the amount shown for the appropriate family member. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart pertain to individuals in fourperson families. If your family has more or less than four, total the “individual” figures and make these adjustments (note: larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones):

—For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

—For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

—For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

—For a five- or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.

—For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, HNIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Johna Pierce (301) 436-8617

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## PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL CAREERS ARE WISE CHOICE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

WASHINGTON—One of the most critical challenges facing the food, agricultural and natural resource system in the 1990s is the need to attract and educate the professionals required to meet the scientific and technical needs of the future.

A report, developed at Purdue University and issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research Service, suggests that college students looking ahead to career choices would do well to seriously consider preparing for scientific and technical careers in agriculture because of the steady availability of jobs.

At least through the middle of this decade there is a projected annual shortfall of 11 percent in highly trained people to fill available agriscience and agribusiness positions.

Charles E. Hess, USDA assistant secretary for science and education, said it isn't surprising that the demand for college graduates in the food and agricultural sciences exceeds the available supply.

"Food safety, environmental quality, natural resource conservation and economic competitiveness are high priorities among the American people," Hess said. To effectively address the scientific, technological and business aspects of these concerns requires highly skilled professionals.

College graduates will find the best career opportunities as marketing, merchandising and sales representatives where the demand for skilled professionals will exceed supply by 18 percent.

Excellent career opportunities are available as sales representatives for plant protection products, fertilizer, seeds, forest products, and lawn, garden, and nursery products. In addition, industry demands call for more commodity brokers, insurance agents, market analysts and real estate brokers.

Scientific, engineering and related specialties are expected to account for nearly 30 percent of the total projected annual openings in agriculture, natural resources and veterinary medicine. Forecasters expect demand to exceed supply by 15 percent. Career opportunities are especially good in the areas of biochemistry, environmental sciences, food process engineering, entomology and soil science.



In contrast, there are more than enough qualified graduates to fill the available positions in communications, education, and agricultural production specialties.

Allan D. Goecker, assistant dean of Purdue University's School of Agriculture, coordinated the study. He said the agriscience and agribusiness employment opportunity picture is driven by three characteristics:

- \*A stable number of professional opportunities.

- \*A shrinking supply of qualified graduates.

- \*Fewer graduates from colleges of agriculture, natural resources and veterinary medicine.

"The simple fact is that we are not producing enough talented college graduates in the food and agricultural sciences to fill highly important roles in business, science, and environmental management," Goecker said.

The U.S. agricultural enterprise is faced with some stiff challenges in this decade. Techniques and business practices must be developed and adopted that will maintain a sustainable agricultural and forest system without threat to the environment.

In addition, the American public is demanding an even more nutritious and safe food supply at a lower relative cost.

Finally, agricultural leaders are faced with the possibility that an apparent shrinking scientific literacy in this country may mean that the public will resist emerging scientific advancements and new technologies.

Jane Coulter, CSRS deputy administrator for higher education programs, said that the shortage of expertise is being felt now. "We aren't talking about the next 10 to 20 years. We have a shortage now and with the growing strategic importance of our food, agricultural and natural resource system, the problem is becoming critical," Coulter said.

She added that the higher education office is working on a number of programs designed to address this pressing issue.

For a copy of the manpower study, "Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in the Food and Agricultural Sciences, 1990-1995," contact: Higher Education Programs, Cooperative State Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Patricia Lewis (201) 763-9592

Issued: Feb. 20, 1991

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